

# Memorandum

To: Board of Commissioners  
From: Jack I. Chandler, Utilities and Engineering  
Amanda Kain, Utilities and Engineering  
Date: June 16, 2004  
Subject: Hazardous Household Waste One-Day Collection Report-May 2004

Date of Event: May 1, 2004  
Time of Event: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Location of Event: Catawba County Government Center

Number of vehicles participating: 252

Cost for collection:	\$17,155.63
Cost for advertising:	\$ 1,603.68
Misc. Costs	\$ 43.08
Total project cost:	\$18,802.39

Staff/Volunteers: **Jack Chandler\***  
**Amanda Kain\***  
**Beverly Hester\***  
**Katie Fleming\***  
**Jean Hinson\***  
**Tony Gallegos\***  
**Dave Hardin\***

## HAZARDOUS HARRY



\*Denotes members of the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Task Force.



The HHW Task Force was set up in 1988 comprised of various county employees and concerned citizen volunteers. Staff members who work the Collection Day volunteer their time for this very important event.

To provide citizens with a means to dispose of hazardous household waste, Catawba County recently held its sixth household hazardous waste collection day. Staff and volunteers, through the HHW Task Force, developed and implemented the event. This event was well attended as 252 vehicles passed through the drive-up collection. Citizens disposed of a variety of waste at a total cost to Catawba

County of \$18,802.39. The cost of the event is driven by the type and quantity of waste handled during the event.

Garbage Disposal Service (GDS) co-sponsors the event by supplying roll off dumpsters, free of charge, for non-recyclable solid waste that is a by-product of the event.

The back employee parking area of the Government Center was utilized creating a well-organized event. Because of inclement weather, participants had little wait time with traffic running smoothly

through the area.

### **How was the event promoted?**

Dave Hardin, Public Information Officer advertised the spring event by placing ads in the Observer News Enterprise, Hickory Daily Record, Charlotte Observer, Lake Norman Times, and the Extra. Internal County notification included e-mail and publication in the "Spirit" newsletter. Also, local municipalities were given information about the event to distribute throughout their buildings. Brochures were distributed to the county's five convenience centers, libraries, county buildings, departments and the Permit Center. A questionnaire completed by citizens as they proceeded through the disposal line indicated once again that the newspaper was the most effective means of reaching participants. The second most effective method was communication between friends and neighbors.

### **What kind of waste was collected?**

The breakdown of waste collected is as follows:

Lead Acid Batteries	3,492 lbs.
Alkaline Batteries	157 lbs.
Propane Cylinders	30 ea.
Nickel Cadmium Batteries	22 lbs.
Mercury Debris	1 drum (5 gal.)
Lithium Batteries	6 lbs.
Mixed Solvents	15 drums (55 gal.)
Liquid Pesticides	1 3-yd container
Aerosols, Flammable	3 drums (55 gal.)
Pesticides/Herbicides Solid	1 3-yd container
Pool Chemicals	1 drum (55 gal.)
Household products/cleaners	2 drums (55 gal.)
Asbestos (friable)	1 3-yd container
Light tubes	21 ea.
Ballasts	82 lbs.
Oil Filters	1 drum (30 gal.)
Paint cans w/residual	1 30-yd roll off box
Paint Related Materials	6 3-yd containers
Electronics	2,817 lbs.



### **What about this year's survey?**



Volunteers sought responses for County Solid Waste planning on several aspects of hazardous household waste. One of those questions was an attempt to locate the participants' household to learn if all areas of the County were represented. Responses indicated that 82 participants were from Newton, 77 from Hickory, 46 from Conover, and 20 from Maiden. The remaining 27 participants were well spread throughout the County. When asked how they heard about the event, 152 of the respondents said the newspaper.

Another question asked if citizens had previously participated in the same type of collection, 93 said yes and of the 93, 90 participated in the County's previous events held in Newton and in Hickory. When asked if they had reduced their

use of toxic or hazardous household products after participating in a previous event, 34 said “very much”, while 49 answered “some”. Additionally, requests were made from 92 participants to learn more about reducing their usage of toxic or hazardous material by receiving the quarterly newsletter.

### **Where Do We Go After The Event?**

Having two events at different locations has proven to be an economical and feasible method of household hazardous waste collection, disposal and reduction. While the County has an obligation to be frugal with taxpayer funds, we are also charged with being good stewards of the environment. Indeed, the County has made an attempt to fulfill this role. The County already provides used motor oil and transmission fluid collections at all five Convenience Centers, used anti-freeze collection at our Blackburn and Newton Centers and paint collection at our Blackburn Center, all free of charge. The County has, partnered and will continue to partner, with the State to dispose of empty pesticide containers free of charge for county farmers at our Blackburn, Newton, and Oxford Centers.



We will continue to utilize various outlets for waste reduction and education through the waste reduction coordinator/educator's outreach to schools, local and state task force committees, pamphlets, web pages, etc.



In closing, staff recommends to continue the two events each year, one in the spring at the Government Center and one in the fall in the City of Hickory.

Please contact either of us with any specific questions you have concerning HHW collection recommendations.